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BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES,

MARCH 20th, 1878.

Which was read and ordered to be printed.

By order,

MILTON Y. KIDD,
Chief Clerk.

REPORT

OF THE

JOINT COMMITTEE

ON

PUBLIC BUILDINGS,

TO THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND.

ANNAPOLIS:

Geo. Colton, Printer to the General Assembly.

1878.

REPORT.

To the Honorable,

The Senate and House of Delegates.

The Standing Committee on Public Buildings of the Honorable, the House of Delegates and the Senate, respectfully report that, acting as a Joint Committee of your Honorable bodies, they have carefully performed their duties, and, as a result of their labor, submit to the Honorable, the Senate and House of Delegates this, their report.

First. Your Committees visited the House of Refuge, situated near the limits of the City of Baltimore, and found no person present, who could give the information wanted, the Managers having some time ago dispensed with their former Superintendent; the Superintendent *pro tem.* was not present. Your Committee proceeded to carefully inspect the buildings and grounds, and found the buildings in very indifferent repair, and not suited for the purposes of a Juvenile Reformatory. The walls of the cells were cold, clammy and damp, the heating apparatus being totally inadequate to heat the building with any degree of comfort. The building was erected over twenty-seven years ago when heating and ventilation was not so thoroughly understood as now. The institution is supported by the City of Baltimore and the State, the former giving twenty thousand dollars per annum for the support of two hundred boys, the latter giving fifteen thousand dollars per annum without regard to the number of boys there was in the institution. When your Committee visited it two years ago there were two hundred and fifty-six boys.—There are now two hundred and thirty-three boys—thirty-three chargeable to the State, and two hundred to the City, the State paying fifteen thousand dollars for their thirty-three boys, and the city paying twenty thousand dollars for her two hundred boys. The washing and water closet arrangement are very unsuited, and the numbering of boys is inappropriate to a reformatory.

The management of the institution is intrusted to twenty-four directors, ten appointed by the city, ten by the subscribers to the charity, or who were formerly subscribers, and four by the State. Your Committee would recommend a reduction in the number of Managers, and an increase of those appointed by the State, so that if the State keeps up her donation, her voice may be more potential in the management of the institution, and with this report have prepared a Bill, which they herewith submit.

St. Mary's Industrial School, was next visited by your Committee and found in good order, and containing three hundred and eighty-two boys. There were on the day of our former visit, two years ago, only two hundred and four, an increase since that time of one hundred and seventy-eight.—The boys in this institution are committed for some juvenile delinquency by either the Court or Justice of the Peace; they appear to be happy, and well governed. Owing to the large increase in their number, we recommend an appropriation of twelve thousand dollars per annum. This sum would appear far too small for the amount of service rendered the State, but owing to good management, and very low wages paid the officers in charge, they can maintain boys here for ninety dollars per annum.

Your Committee next visited the Maryland Penitentiary, and found the Directors and Warden at their post. There were on the day we visited it, eight hundred and sixty convicts, all busily engaged at work, and earning about their support, so that the institution about sustains itself. Great complaint is made by mechanics and manufactures outside, concerning the competition and low prices of the goods manufactured here, but we do not believe that this Committee is called upon to investigate the cause, or suggest a remedy—we merely state the fact. The buildings and grounds are in good repair and cleanly kept, but owing to the rapid increase in the number confined, additional accommodations are necessary, and we recommend that they be supplied.

Your Committee next visited the School for the Deaf and Dumb, situated at Frederick City, and found eighty-nine scholars there on the day of our visit. The management desire an annual appropriation of twenty-five thousand dollars for the support of the institution. The institution is in good repair, and well managed, and we recommend the appropriation asked.

Your Committee next visited the School for the Blind, on Boundary Avenue, near Charles street, and found all its appointments in the very best condition, the grounds and building well and neatly kept. There were on the day of our visit

forty-nine pupils in the institution, ten of whom were from the District of Columbia, and paid for be those sending them.—The remaining thirty-nine pupils are a charge on the State; which pays for each of them, at the rate of three hundred dollars per annum.

Your Committee next visited the Colored School for the Deaf, Dumb and Blind, on Broadway, near Bank street, and found thirty-two inmates. For these the State makes an appropriation of eight thousand five hundred dollars annually. This building is situated in a very thickly settled part of the city, and some of its neighbors complain that its location there has greatly depreciated their property, and otherwise inconvenienced them. Your Committee believe these complaints to be well founded, as Dr. Erich, one of the officers of the institution, informed your Committee that his own property, has depreciated in value over two thousand dollars. The Board of Directors express their willingness to move, but are unable unless the Legislature shall furnish the means. Your Committee therefore recommend an appropriation of such a sum, which, together with the sale of the present buildings, will enable the trustees of the institution to move to some retired location in the country, where it can be managed with more economy, and the inmates have more freedom, without exciting adverse criticism of their near neighbors; and your Committee believe the management of the institution is as good as of any institution in the State under the circumstances.

Your Committee next visited the House of Reformation and Instruction for Colored Children, situated at Cheltingham, in Prince George's county. This is an institution similar in kind to the House of Refuge and St. Mary's Industrial School, where juvenile colored delinquents are committed from all parts of the State, by the Courts and Justices of the Peace. It is a thrifty, well managed institution, and increasing in numbers very fast. Your Committee recommend the usual annual appropriation of ten thousand dollars.

Your Committee next visited the Maryland Agricultural College, and found on the day of our visit fifty-five students there, who were put through the various operations of farm work in our presence: they were then turned into Military, and your Committee reviewed and was pleased with the proficiency in drill of the young farmers. The professors appear to work with zeal in their respective chairs, in fact, we were pleased with all we saw and heard.

Your Committee finally and lastly visited the House of Correction near Jessup's. It is a fine building, well put up and admirably well suited for the purpose it is intended for.

The water, gas, heating and shops are yet needed to make the building ready for the reception of inmates. We recommend an appropriation for the purpose of supplying the necessary improvements to make the house inhabitable, and herewith report a bill for that purpose.

Your Committee visited the Maryland Hospital, at Spring Grove, situated near Catonsville, in Baltimore County, seven miles from Baltimore, and found it located on a tract of land containing one hundred and thirty-seven acres, commanding a fine view of Baltimore city, the bay and surrounding country for many miles. The improvements consist of a large Hospital built of granite, in a very substantial manner, with gas-house, hot house, gardener's dwelling, stabling, &c., and found the Hospital capable of comfortably affording accommodation for three hundred and twenty-five patients. There were, however, on the day of our visit, January 21st, 1878, only two hundred and eighty-eight insane in the institution, fifty of whom paid for their own maintenance, and were no tax on the Hospital; the remaining two hundred and thirty-eight were sent to the Hospital by order of the Circuit Courts for the various counties and the City of Baltimore, and the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars per annum, levied by the County Commissioners or the City Council, for each of these insane paupers, and paid over by the different counties and City of Baltimore, to the President and Visitors of the Maryland Hospital, sometimes in advance, and nearly all in the year for which it is levied, so that the institution was in receipt of maintenance for two hundred and thirty eight paupers the sum of \$35,700, and for fifty pay patients \$12,500, the whole cost for maintaining this institution for last year being \$65,464, or \$245 per capita. This sum is too much; but your Committee believe that a greater saving of the expenses can be effected. It is only necessary to know the amount of insane to know what they should cost. The last report of the Superintendent of the Insane Asylum at Ward Island, New York, shows that it cost for each insane male for 1876, 29 cents per day or \$105.85 per annum, and for each female lunatic on Blackwell's Island 21 cents per day or \$77.00 per annum, while during the year, with the same market prices, the insane in the Maryland Hospital, male and female, cost \$245.00 per annum each, and in New York males cost \$105.00, and female only \$77.00 per annum to support them, in fact the monthly pay roll for salary and wages to guards, keeper and nurses for 1,388 patients on Blackwell's Island was only \$1,500, and it cost at the Maryland Hospital to perform the same service for 288 patients \$1,600 per month. It will be seen that a great deal has been accomplished in the last

two years, but much remains still to be done to put this institution on a proper footing of economy. We recommend that the usual appropriation of \$15,000 be made, but nothing for improvements, as we believe none is needed at present.

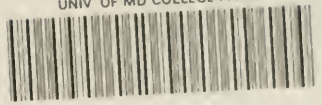
All of which is respectfully submitted by

M. BANNON,
HERMAN STUMP, Jr.,
JOHN H. COOPER,
WILLIAM M. KNIGHT,
SAMUEL G. ACTON,
HARRY SANDER.

We concur in above Report, except as to increase of any of the appropriations.

W. H. PERKINS,
FRANK BROWN.

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